

located in medium-sized, live trees of *Ficus* sp., *Cassia leptophylla*, Mango *Mangifera* sp. and 'Mvule' *Milicia excelsa*.

Colony location and the size of the breeding population were probably related to both nest site characteristics (the number of trees at the colony) and proximity to suitable foraging areas (including rice fields). The Nampologoma colony is located less than 5 km from the Doho rice scheme, the Busolwe colony is located within 5 km of the Nakwiga swamp that has had extensive drainage for rice growing, and the Mbale colony is located within 10 km of the Mbale sewage works and the Napwoli and Nambale wetlands that have been converted to small-scale rice and vegetable farming.

**Table 1.** Species and numbers of breeding pairs of large waterbirds at three colonies holding Yellow-billed Storks in Uganda.

Species	Mbale	Busolwe	Nampologoma
African Spoonbill	8	94	38
Black-headed Heron	64	109	4
Cattle Egret	91	210	30
Pink-backed Pelican	30	70	0
Sacred Ibis	0	67	14

## References

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## First record of White-crowned Plover *Vanellus albiceps* in Uganda

On the afternoon of 10 July 2003 I was on the top deck of the Uganda National Parks launch sailing towards the famous falls in the Murchison Falls National Park. The river Nile was very high which meant that there were none of the usual sandbanks available for birds such as plovers and skimmers. We were

about 2–3 km from the falls when I noticed a distinctive, mainly white, bird flying downstream towards us. I quickly picked it out with my binoculars and immediately identified it as a White-crowned Plover. I called out to my safari clients, Tod and Noreen Likinks, to look at the bird. The distinctive white forehead, the extensive long, pointed, yellow wattles and the almost completely white underwing pattern were well seen as the bird flew by at about 15–20 m from the launch. As it flew away, its trailing bright yellow legs were seen well.

White-crowned Plovers are normally birds of open sandbanks which I have seen commonly along the Zambesi River in Zambia and Zimbabwe as well in Ruaha National Park and Selous National Reserve in Tanzania. Such sand banks are present for most of the year along the Nile in Murchison Falls National Park. The unusually high water was probably attributable to late and heavy rains in East Africa that year. It is possible that this weather pattern also affected water levels in West Africa where this species also occurs and pushed this bird from that population into Uganda.

There are two unsubstantiated records of White-crowned Plover from Uganda (Anon 1971, Mann 1976) but this is the first properly documented record and has been accepted by the East African Rarities Committee.

#### References

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